This species has been confounded with *Testudo indica*, which differs from it in having a distinct nuchal plate and a differently shaped head, and which is a native of the Seychelles, whence it is often introduced into the gardens of the Mauritius, where it is eaten. Some have been brought thence to India; but Mr. Blyth states that it has never been known to propagate in that country.

General Hardwicke figures a very young specimen which he had at Bengal; but it might have been introduced.

Mr. Darwin observes:—"These animals are found, I believe, on all the islands of the Archipelago, certainly on the greater number. They frequent in preference the high damp parts, but they likewise live in the lower and arid districts. I have already shown, from the numbers which have been caught in a single day, how very numerous they must be. Some grow to an immense size; Mr. Lawson, an Englishman, and Vice-Governor of the colony, told us that he had seen several so large that it required six or eight men to lift them from the ground, and that some had afforded as much as two hundred pounds of meat. The old males are the largest, the females rarely growing to so large a size: the male can readily be distinguished from the female by the greater length of its tail. The Tortoises which live on those islands where there is no water, or in the lower and arid part of the others, feed chiefly on succulent cactus. Those which frequent the higher and damp regions, eat the leaves of various trees, a kind of berry (called *guayavita*) which is acid and austere, and likewise a pale green filamentous lichen (*Usnea plicata*) that hangs in tresses from the boughs of the trees.

"The Tortoise is very fond of water, drinking large quantities, and wallowing in the mud. The larger islands alone possess springs; and these are always situated towards the central parts, and at a considerable height. The Tortoises, therefore, which frequent the lower districts, when thirsty, are obliged to travel from a long distance. Hence broad and well-beaten paths branch off in every direction from the wells down to the sea-coast; and the Spaniards, by following them up, first discovered the watering-places. When I landed at Chatham Island, I could not imagine what animal travelled so methodically along well-chosen tracks. Near the springs it was a curious spectacle to behold many of the huge creatures, one set eagerly travelling onwards with outstretched necks, and another set returning, after having drunk their fill. When the Tortoise arrives at the spring, quite regardless of any spectator, he buries his head in the water above his eyes, and greedily swallows great mouthfuls, at the rate of about ten in a minute."

Captain David Porter, in his Journal of a Cruise made to the Pacific Ocean in the U.S. Frigate 'Essex' in the years 1812–14, states:—"Four boats were despatched every morning to bring in a stock of Tortoises, and returned at night, bringing with them from twenty to thirty each, averaging about 60 lbs.; and in four days we had as many as we could conveniently stow. They were piled up on the quarter-deck for a few days, in order that they might have time to discharge the contents of their intestines, which are considerable; after which they were stowed away below, like any other provision. They require no food or water for a year; nor is any further attention to them necessary, than that their shells should be preserved unbroken."

4. TESTUDO RADIATA, *Shaw.*

Tab. VII. & VIII.

Testudo radiata, Gray, Cat. Sh. Rept. Suppl. p. 5.

Hab. Madagascar.

Characterized by the spherical form of the shell, the yellow areola, and black rays of the shields.

5. TESTUDO PARDALIS, *Bell.*

Tab. IX. & X.

Testudo pardalis, Gray, Cat. Sh. Rept. Suppl. p. 6.

Hab. South (and Western?) Africa.

Mr. Bell observes:—"The neck was so remarkably long and extensile, that the head could be easily raised much above the level of the top of the back; and thus the animal was enabled to look round on all sides, merely by turning the head—a peculiarity which I have never observed in any other species." "It fed heartily on grass, which it appeared to prefer to any other food, and which it plucked with a sidelong movement of the head, exactly similar to that of a goose."

6. TESTUDO ACTINODES, *Bell.*

Tab. XI. & XII.

Peltastes stellatus, var. *actinoides*, Gray, Cat. Sh. Rept. Suppl. p. 8.

Hab. East Indies.

It varies greatly in the number of yellow rays, and in the flatness and convexity of the dorsal shields.

The specimen figured is peculiar for having very convex shields, which Mr. Bell considered a specific character.

This is a tender species, and will not live in this country during the winter.

These animals, according to Captain T. Hutton, have the curious habit of butting one another when two animals happen to meet, which causes the nuchal margin of adult shells to be often chipped.

7. TESTUDO GEOMETRICA, *Linn.*

Tab. XIII.

Peltastes geometricus, Gray, Cat. Sh. Rept. Suppl. p. 9.

Hab. South Africa.

This species will not live through the winter in this climate, according to Mr. Bell's experience.

8. TESTUDO TENTORIA, *Bell.*

Tab. XIV.

Peltastes tentorius, Gray, Cat. Sh. Rept. Suppl. p. 9.

Hab. South Africa.

This species is very like *P. geometrica*; but the dorsal shields are generally conical, with a small

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